

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 091934Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8802

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY NEW DEHLI

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,MX,AG,EG,CE,SG,TZ,GY,SA,KX,IN,TD,IR, IS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S TRIP

REF: MEXICO 6020

1. MEXICAN PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA ANNOUNCED JULY 7 HIS ITIN-
ERARY FOR HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP AS FOLLOWS: GUYANA, JULY 8-10;
SENEGAL, JULY 10-14; ALGERIA, JULY 14-17; IRAN, JULY 17-21;
INDIA, JULY 21-23; SRI LANKA, JULY 24; TANZANIA, JULY 25-28;
KUWAIT, JULY 28-AUG 1; SAUDI ARABIA AUG 1-4; EGYPT, AUG 4-7;
8 4AEL, AUG 7-10; TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AUG 10-13; AND CUBA,
AUG 14-18.

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2. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND MAY BE USEFUL TO POSTS ALONG ROUTE OF ECHEVERRIA'S TRIP. DURING HIS FOUR AND A HALF YEARS AS MEXICO'S PRESIDENT, ECHEVERRIA HAS BROUGHT UNACCUSTOMED ACTIVISM TO GOM FOREIGN RELATIONS AND ATTEMPTED TO INSCRIBE MEXICO FIRMLY AMONG LEADING NATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD. IN THIS QUEST FOR LEADERSHIP, MEXICAN FOREIGN POLICY HAS BEEN GEARED INCREASINGLY TOWARD PROMOTING THIRD WORLD UNITY IN SUPPORT OF A "NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER." ECHEVERRIA IS ENORMOUSLY PROUD OF HIS INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING THE CHAPTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS) AT THE UNCTAD CONFERENCE IN CHILE IN APRIL 1972, AND OF THE LEADING PART TAKEN BY THE GOM IN ITS ADOPTION AT THE UNGA IN DECEMBER 1974. SINCE ITS APPROVAL, HE HAS TIRELESSLY SOUGHT TO PROMOTE THE CHARTER AS THE IDEAL "FRAMEWORK" FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

3. ECHEVERRIA'S THIRD WORLD STANCES AND RHETORIC ARE DESIGNED NOT ONLY TO PUT HIM IN WHAT WE BELIEVES IS THE VANGUARD OF THE MOVEMENT BUT ALSO TO WIN SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONALISTIC AND LEFTIST ELEMENTS WITHIN MEXICO AND DEMONSTRATE GOM INDEPENDENCE OF US INFLUENCE. IN PURSUIT OF THE LATTER, THE GOM IS ACTIVELY SEEKING NEW SOURCES OF TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TO OFFSET THE CURRENT US PREPONDERANCE IN THESE AREAS (THE US ACCOUNTS FOR TWO-THIRDS OF MEXICO'S TRADE AND 80 PERCENT OF ITS FOREIGN INVESTMENT).

4. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN NUMEROUS OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL HINTS FROM THE GOM THAT ECHEVERRIA, WHO CANNOT SEEK ANOTHER TERM AS PRESIDENT OF MEXICO WHEN HIS CURRENT TERM EXPIRES IN DECEMBER OF 1976, IS INTERESTED IN HEADING AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. BOTH SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN AND HEAD OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION HAVE BEEN MENTIONED. IN PUBLIC, ECHEVERRIA IS CURRENTLY DOWNPLAYING THIS AS "PREMATURE". NEVERTHELESS, HE HAS INTENSIFIED HIS ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL LEVEL OF ACTIVITIES IN THE FOREIGN RELATIONS SPHERE: SINCE TAKING OFFICE IN 1970, ECHEVERRIA HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD 7 TIMES TO A TOTAL OF 23 NATIONS. HIS CURRENT (8TH) TRIP WILL BE HIS LONGEST IN TERMS OF BOTH DURATION (42 DAYS) AND NUMBER OF NATIONS VISITED (13).

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DURING THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, ECHEVERRIA HAS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED THE TEMPO OF FOREIGN VISITS TO MEXICO AND OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HELD HERE.

5. ECHEVERRIA'S TRIPS ABROAD ARE GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED BY AN ARDUOUS SCHEDULE OF HIGHLY VISIBLE ACTIVITY. THE MEXICAN CHIEF OF STATE SEEKS TO CULTIVATE AN IMAGE AS A TIRELESS AND DYNAMIC LEADER. HE LOVES TO HAVE CROWDS TURNED

OUT FOR HIM AND TO MEET PEOPLE. IN PARTICULAR, ECHEVERRIA LIKES TO MEET WITH INTELLECTUALS FOR INFORMAL AND GENERALLY ONE-SIDED "DISCUSSIONS" WHICH OCCASIONALLY ARE EMBARRASSING TO HIS HOSTS AND DRAG ON FOR HOURS, DISRUPTING HIS SCHEDULE. ECHEVERRIA'S DISLIKE OF FORMALITY IS LEGEND. NEVERTHELESS, MEXICANS ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND NEGOTIATE TENACIOUSLY TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON SUCH PET TOPICS AS CERDS AND NIEO.

6. THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH TRIP TAKES PLACE IS EVEN (FOUR MONTHS HENCE) OF PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION. SELECTION (NOT ELECTION) IS ESSENTIALLY CLOSED PROCESS IN WHICH CURRENT RULING ELITE, HEADED BY PRESIDENT, MAKES THE CHOICE. ECHEVERRIA'S ABSENTING HIMSELF FOR 42 DAYS AT THIS TIME REFLECTS CONFIDENCE IN HIS CONTROL OF DOMESTIC SITUATION.

7. AS USUAL PRESIDENT IS TRAVELING WITH HUGE ENTOURAGE, WHICH REPRESENTS MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL, PRIVATE, AND POLITICAL INTERESTS (HOWEVER, NONE OF THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES IS REPRESENTED).

8. REPORTS ON SUBSTANCE AND ATMOSPHERICS OF ECHEVERRIA'S VISITS, AND IN PARTICULAR ANY IMPRESSIONS FROM PRESS OR HOST GOVERNMENT SOURCES OF DYNAMICS AMONG SUPPORTING ACTORS, WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
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TAGS: PFOR, MX, AG, EG, CE, SG, TZ, GY, SA, KU, IN, TD, IR, IS, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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